



# AmeriCorps IN Action

## 2006 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Service and Volunteerism

The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives would like to congratulate all **2006 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Service and Volunteerism**

Nominees and Winners. Each person exemplifies Hoosier values with their volun-



teer efforts.

The winners were *Community Volunteerism- Peer Information*

**Center for Teens, Inc., Faith-Based Volunteerism-Vernon Reed, Lifetime Achievement-Eva Skirvin, National Service-Kyaw Soe, Service Learning-LEAPS Academy, and Youth-Jasmine Taylor.**

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## Calling All AmeriCorps Alumni for Service Opportunity !

AmeriCorps Alums is announcing the week of **May 27, 2006 - June 3, 2006** to be AmeriCorps Alums Week of Service in the Gulf! The week launches National Service Month of Service during the whole month of June! Service will focus on [assisting the people of the Gulf region](#) in their rebuilding efforts.

As a means to highlight the continued impact of AmeriCorps alumni, we are calling on all Alums to deploy to the Gulf Region for this event. By attending, Alums from across the country can help show the country that Alums are dedicated to national service well beyond their AmeriCorps term.



You will serve side by side with alumni as well as current NCCC members who are serving the rest of their year in the Gulf. During the week of service, food, lodging, and all necessary equipment are provided at no cost to our members. Transportation assistance will be provided to AmeriCorps Alums groups of 10 or more. The efforts will focus on two sites- New Orleans, LA and Biloxi, MS.

To register, simply send an e-mail to your site choice and note the names of the persons in your party, arrival and departure information, and that you will be serving on behalf of AmeriCorps Alums. For New Orleans, please click [here](#). For Biloxi, please click [here](#).

### Special note of interest!



The June edition of AmeriCorps IN Action will feature complete coverage of the 2006 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism.

## Indiana Reading Corps Celebrates Aung San Suu Kyi Day



*Aung San Suu Kyi from a 1991 issue of Time.*

On Sunday June 18, 2006, Indiana Reading Corps will host the second annual Aug San Suu Kyi Day. This event will be held at The Walb Student Union Ballroom from 12pm to 5pm on the campus of IPFW in Ft. Wayne.

Aung San Suu Kyi was the 1991 recipient of the Noble Peace prize for her work with non-

violent struggle for democracy in Burma. The event will coincide with Burmese Women's Day and Aung San Suu Kyi's 61<sup>st</sup> birthday.

The event will feature a message from Senator John McCain (AZ) and a keynote address by Congressman Mark Souder (IN). There will be exhibitions of local artists, live music, a free book for every child attending, Burmese food, and much more.

For more information about this event, please contact Kyaw T. Soe at [soek@ipfw.edu](mailto:soek@ipfw.edu) or 260-481-6443.

## Merci, Danke, Gracias!



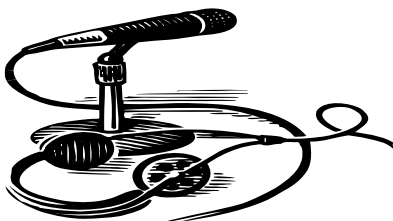
The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives would like to thank everyone who volunteered for the 2006 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism.

More than eighty volunteers, from various organizations, assisted the OFBCI before and during the conference. Over 700 people attended! All participants and volunteers helped to make the 2006 Governor's Conference on Service and Volunteerism a great success!

## CNCS Releases New Public Service Announcements for AmeriCorps

Corporation for National and Community Service has recently released new public service announcements to increase AmeriCorps recruitment. The theme of the new PSA is *AmeriCorps...Get Involved*.

The public service announcements feature interviews with AmeriCorps members assisting with Hurricane Relief. The



public service spots are for recorded for radio. The PSAs are recorded in both English and Spanish and have running times of 10 seconds, 30 seconds, and 60 seconds. They are available for download at

<http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/newsroom/psas.asp>.

Web banners featuring the *AmeriCorps...Get Involved* logo also available for download

[http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/media\\_kit/link\\_to\\_us.asp](http://www.nationalservice.gov/about/media_kit/link_to_us.asp)

## AmeriCorps Member of the Month: Crystal Thomas- Sycamore Service Corps

*"Crystal is one of those special people who has touched the lives of children in need. She understands the "human condition" and displays compassion while providing the structure needed for children to grow into productive adults".*

Jim Edwards, Director, Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall

In the summer of 2005, Crystal Thomas began serving with AmeriCorps. She currently works at Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall with the Sycamore Service Corps. During her AmeriCorps service, she has



*Crystal Thomas (second from right) with girls from "Ryves Sweeties."*

created and implemented programs for girls between ages 10-15.

One such program, the

"Ryves Sweeties" was formed to teach the girls socialization skills. Crystal organized a manners class for the Sweeties followed by dinner at a local restaurant. She also organized a dance performance for the girls at ISU's Theater Department. Crystal also helps with the basketball program, neighborhood clean-ups, and provides tours for visitors at the Ryves Youth Center.

(Continued on page 4)



## Program of the Month: Sycamore Service Corps

Founded in the fall of 2005, Sycamore Service Corps, is an intergenerational corps of volunteers including local residents and students from the Terre Haute area higher education institutions. It seeks to place AmeriCorps volunteers with local non-profit organizations in Vigo, Clay, Parke, Sullivan, and Vermillion counties.

AmeriCorps members work in issue areas of public safety, human needs, community and economic development, education, and health/nutrition. Members assist families through local programs geared towards the education of families about



*Sycamore Service Corps members serve in many capacities.*

booster seat safety and teen court as an alternative to the juvenile criminal justice program.

Members also provide mentoring to youth at local day camps, summer camps,

and community centers, promote childhood health and prevention of overweight and obesity in youth. Members assist with the development of job skills for local residents through a family self-sufficiency program.

For more information about Sycamore Service Corps, visit their website at <http://www.indstate.edu/publicservice/students/ameriCorps.htm> or contact Debbie Miller at [dmliller@indstate.edu](mailto:dmliller@indstate.edu) or 812-237-7900.

## AmeriCorps Member of the Month: Crystal Thomas



*Ryves Sweeties, on stage, during a recent performance.*

Crystal states, “The most rewarding thing for me has been starting the group, “Sweeties” and working with the girls. At times it has been challenging due to lack of time, funding, and the girls not

*always behaving appropriately. Through all of this though, I have loved seeing the way the girls react when we go on field trips and teaching them new things. It has been incredible and helped me in deciding what I want to be doing and where I want to be in life.”*

Crystal Thomas was the recipient of the Outstanding AmeriCorps Member 2005-06 (Sycamore Service Corps). She is a junior Information Technology major at Indiana

State University and currently working on an American Humanics certification.



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## May 2006: Important Dates

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| May 2, 2006  | Office of Faith-Based Community Initiatives<br>Closed. Primary Election Day.  |
| May 4, 2006  | 9:00 AM (EST) AmeriCorps Program Directors'<br>Conference Call  |
| May 6, 2006  | Join Hands Day<br>For more information, please visit <a href="http://www.joinhandsday.org/scripts/home.cfm">http://<br/>www.joinhandsday.org/scripts/home.cfm</a> . |
| May 10, 2006 | Periodic Expense Reports Due for period ending<br>April 30, 2006.   |
| May 13, 2006 | Solution House Dedication   |
| May 29, 2006 | Office of Faith-Based Community Initiatives<br>Closed. Memorial Day   |

